

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 19, 2005. Claims 1-7 are pending.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 5 and 7 contain allowable subject matter. Allowable claims 2 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claims 2, 5 and 7 are now in condition for allowance given the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claim 1 stands rejected under Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Ueda. This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires "a hard film which covers the entirety of a peripheral side of the semiconductor substrate so that the entire periphery of the semiconductor substrate is covered by the hard film." For example, see Figs. 1A and 1D of the instant application.

Ueda fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid underlined feature of claim 1. In particular, Fig. 1D of Ueda only illustrates the filled trenches on two sides of the semiconductor substrate and there is no top view.

Claim 6 stands rejected under Section 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Qi. This Section 102(e) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 6 requires that "the hard film is not provided on the top surface of the semiconductor substrate and is not provided on the bottom surface of the semiconductor substrate." Qi fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 6. Instead, Qi teaches directly away from the invention of claim 6 in this respect since Qi's purpose is to provide "underfill" material 40, 92 across virtually the entire major surface of the alleged semiconductor substrate as

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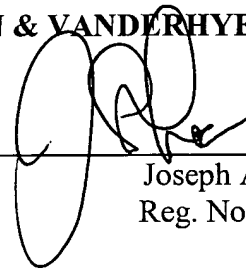
shown in Figs. 8-11. One of ordinary skill in the art would never have modified Qi to meet the invention of claim 6 because to do so would destroy the purpose and functionality of Qi.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.**

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